

Burgh of Bathgate.

ANNUAL REPORTS

BY

The Burgh Surveyor,

The Medical Officer of Health

AND

The Sanitary Inspector,

For Year 1923.

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BURGH CHAMBERS,
BATHGATE, April, 1924.

TO THE SCOTTISH BOARD OF HEALTH
AND THE
PROVOST, MAGISTRATES, AND TOWN
COUNCILLORS of the BURGH OF BATHGATE.

GENTLEMEN,—

I herewith beg to submit the Annual Report for the year 1923, in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Health.

As in former years, the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health will be found within the same covers.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ANDREW L. REID.

BURGH SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

WATER SUPPLY.

On more than one occasion reference has been made to historical events relating to the inception and development of schemes designed to afford an ample supply of water, and it seems appropriate to recall the fact that precisely one hundred years ago :—"A number of public spirited persons in the town found it necessary, and accordingly applied to Parliament for, and obtained an Act, erecting and incorporating the Town into a Free and Independent Burgh of Barony." The Act received the Royal Assent on 17th June, 1824, so that a century of civic activity has well-nigh been accomplished.

It is quite natural to direct attention to such an interesting local historical event under the above heading, because the primary reason for promoting the measure was to obtain the water rights and property of the "Water Society of the Town of Bathgate."

All through the century the records refer to schemes of augmentation, with a frequency and persistency that clearly indicate the recurrence of dry seasons.

Now in the actual centenary year the latest development will be brought into beneficial use, and another fifteen million gallons per annum made available.

The New Reservoir at Ballencrieff was completed early in May last, but remained practically empty during the summer months. Water was directed into it on the 23rd August, and in a period of 102 days the reservoir commenced to overflow, notwithstanding the fact that 1,350,000 gallons were scoured out from the bottom of the reservoir. It may not be considered inopportune to state that as no new source of supply was tapped, all this quantity would have run to waste had it not been intercepted and stored in the newly constructed reservoir.

The level of water in the other reservoirs reached the lowest point on the 25th August, but the heavy rainfall registered that month checked the downward tendency, and thereafter the quantity impounded gradually increased, and by the first week in November all were again full.

RAINFALL.

The month of August, with a rainfall of 5.12 inches, was the wettest month of the year, while the month of June, with 1.25 inches of a rainfall, proved to be the driest.

In March, however, there was a period of eleven days during which no rain fell. This was the longest dry period during the year. The 20th August, with a rainfall of 1.19 inches, turned out to be the wettest day of the year, but ten days later, on the 30th August, 1.12 inches of rainfall was recorded.

It can truthfully be stated that prior to the rainfall in August the prospect of maintaining an unrestricted supply to the inhabitants for the remainder of the dry season was not altogether promising, but all doubts on that score were removed by the beginning of September, when the product of the heavy rainfall in August became apparent in the increasing level of water in all the reservoirs.

When a comparison is made with the rain gauge at the Filters, it is observed that the rainfall last year was greater than the immediately preceding year by 7.97 inches, and that rain fell in measurable quantities on 213 days, against 186 days for 1922. There was thus last year 27 more wet days than in 1922.

Three rain gauges are still retained in position in our area of supply, and the quantity registered on each gauge was as follows:—

No. 1 Gauge (Filters)...	35.72 inches.
No. 2 Gauge (Petershill Reservoir) ...	30.37 inches.
No. 3 Gauge (Ballencrieff Reservoir),	30.30 inches.

BISHOPBRAE PUMPING STATION.

The period during which the auxiliary pumping plant at Bishopbrae operated last year was again relatively short. At the beginning of June pumping operations commenced and were continued daily, with the exception of Sundays, until the middle of August, when it was deemed expedient to dispense with the pump for another season. An effort is always made to have the period of pumping as short as possible, because water raised by that means is exceedingly costly.

WATER MAINS.

The only new water main laid during the year was one 5 inches in diameter in South Bridge Street in substitution for an old pipe 2 inches in diameter. A connection was made to the existing 5 inch pipe in North Bridge Street, and the section was also connected, full bore, to the main in Whitburn Road. A total of 23 new $\frac{3}{4}$ inch connections were made, and the cost of the work, including all material and labour, amounted to £226 8s 6d.

FILTERS.

The four filter beds have been maintained in good order during the whole season. Frequent skimming is required, and following the custom of former seasons, the entire filtering aggregate of one of the beds was removed and replaced with clean washed and fresh material. To maintain our stock of filtering sand, 21 tons were obtained from Loch Etive, and all passed through one of the sand washers before being deposited in the filter beds.

PREVENTION OF WASTE.

In our local circumstances, the prevention of waste must always be regarded as an important branch of the routine work in the Water Department.

Not a few properties throughout the Burgh are known to possess service pipes and fittings, which frequently cause undue waste of water. These may be regarded as placed on a black list, and visits are more frequently made to these properties. In the ordinary course of visitation all properties are visited at least once during a season for the purpose of inspection, with a view to detection and prevention of waste.

In the course of last year a total of 418 pipes or fittings were discovered to be in a defective condition. In most cases little difficulty is experienced in having the necessary repairs carried into effect.

SEWERS.

After a period of unusual activity in sewer extension work, rendered necessary mainly by the development of housing, a quiet period in this Department was experienced as no new sewers were laid.

The practice of copiously flushing all sections was continued throughout the season.

Towards the end of the year a defect on the main sewer in Edinburgh Road manifested itself. Excavations on the site revealed the fact that an old stone culvert had collapsed, fracturing the large fireclay pipe, and projecting the stones into the internal area of the sewer.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

All plant and fittings at the Sewage Disposal Works have been maintained in good order and repair.

It is not surprising that after 16 years of continuous use the mechanical parts should be furnishing evidence of wear. Detritus and silt chambers require more frequent attention during showery weather, and for the clearing of the tanks a new chain pump has been very serviceable.

The Works continue to produce a satisfactory effluent, to which no one has taken exception.

The surplus land not occupied by the Purification Works and Plant was cropped as in former years, and while the wet autumn had the effect of rendering the potato crop almost a failure, the cabbage and mangel-wurzel crop proved heavy in either case, and yielded a very fair return.

SCAVENGING AND CLEANSING.

No change in the collection, removal, and disposal of household and shop refuse falls to be recorded, the methods of the previous year being continued.

With the extension of the Housing Scheme, and with 136 new houses all occupied, the bulk to be dealt with has increased.

The Ford ton wagon has been more extensively used last year, and 1642 loads were collected and removed by it to the point of disposal.

The number of cart loads removed amounted to 1971, so that there was a total of 3613 loads of refuse removed to the depot in the course of the year.

It is rather curious to observe at first sight that, while a larger quantity of refuse was dealt with, the number of loads should be 15 fewer than in the previous year. This is readily accounted for by the fact that the Ford wagon removed 717 loads more than in the preceding year, and that the capacity of this wagon is much in excess of the ordinary cleansing cart.

In addition to the household and shop refuse, there were removed 335 loads of street sweepings; 147 loads of snow; 20 carts of mud; and 10 carts of other refuse.

Having had the Ford ton wagon continuously in use for nearly three years now, the repair bill is becoming rather heavy, and the Committees concerned will probably have to consider, in the near future, the advisability of procuring another and probably a heavier petrol vehicle for work in the Roads and Cleansing Departments.

Although there has been a noticeable improvement in the amount of waste paper carelessly thrown on the streets, much can still be done to rid the streets of this form of nuisance. Doubtless most of it is due to thoughtlessness, and much good would result by the cultivation of careful habits, particularly among young people.

The market for salvaged material has so far not offered much inducement to revert to the methods practised during the war years.

The collection of waste food, which is utilised for pig feeding, is still practised, and the prices obtained for the stock reared, though considerably less than in previous years, still yields a reasonable profit after meeting all expenditure.

In former years it has been customary to give the comparative cost of cleansing under various headings, but owing to the fact that the nature of cleansing work varies so much in different areas, it is doubtful if such comparisons will be of any real value until some uniform method applicable to the costing of cleansing work is adopted.

The actual cost of Cleansing last financial year was £1003—or £49 less than that of the immediately preceding year.

ROADS AND STREETS.

The cost of maintenance of roads continues to increase,

and last year's expenditure exceeded that of any previous year.

According to the Abstract of Accounts for the past financial year, £5070 were so expended.

Materials purchased absorbed £3144.

The weight of material applied and rolled in position was also greater than in previous years, and is classified as under-noted :—

Nature of Material.	Weight.
Tarred Whinstone Metal	1789 tons 7 cwts.
Tarred Slag (Fine)	456 tons 16 cwts.
Dry Slag (Fine)	315 tons 0 cwts.
Dry Whinstone	174 tons 13 cwts.
Whinstone Gravel	47 tons 17 cwts.
Tyndrum Gravel	12 tons 0 cwts.
Whin Sand	28 tons 7 cwts.
Total	2824 tons 0 cwts.

In addition 2625 feet of kerb were purchased, and for road surfacing 5840 gallons of Spraymex and 4800 gallons of Spraphalte were procured.

Situated on the central of three main roads, and on the shortest route between Edinburgh and Glasgow, it is not surprising to observe a steady increase in the volume of heavy mechanically propelled vehicular traffic. Not only is the traffic continuous through the day time, but it is no unusual experience for large vehicles, particularly those carrying bulky material, to travel through the night, and those living on the line of road oftentimes complain about the noisy nature of this class of traffic.

Motor omnibus traffic during the past year has increased in much greater proportion than any other form of traffic, and it has been a frequent cause of anxiety to the Magistrates to fix suitable places for these omnibuses stopping and starting on their various routes.

Bathgate, as the largest shopping centre in the County, with a considerable number of smaller centres of population within a radius of 2 to 5 miles, lends itself to the development of this means of transport.

In an effort to ascertain the number of car miles run by these omnibuses on the roads within the Burgh for one week, the time tables of those companies and individual owners of motor omnibuses were consulted, and it was found that the number of car miles per week was 1103. This figure is only approximate, and is well within the mark, because frequently, particularly during the week-end, many extra buses are run in addition to those indicated on the time tables. One, therefore, obtains some idea of what the roads have now to sustain when these figures reveal that, in the course of a year, approximately 58,000 car miles are covered by this class of traffic alone within the Burgh Boundary.

About a year ago the congestion of traffic at the point where Whitburn Road joins the Main Road, the dangers incidental thereto, and the number of accidents which occurred, induced the Town Council to arrange with the Chief Constable for having a man constantly on point duty at this dangerous corner.

During the month of May, and in order mainly to provide work for a few of the unemployed, it was resolved to widen the main Edinburgh and Glasgow Road from its junction with Mid Street to the Burgh Boundary, a distance of fully 600 yards. The whole length of carriage-way now averages 33 feet in width.

In the course of operations it became necessary to protect a sewer which, for a considerable distance, ran parallel to the roadway, and this was accomplished by the roadway being furnished with a foundation in concrete, reinforced with B.R.C. Fabric. The entire area was thereafter resurfaced with Bitumastic Tar Macadam.

The sections of roadway resurfaced last year were Mid Street, Academy Street, Gideon Street, Mill Road to Mill Haugh, and Lower Bathgate Road. The material used was Tar Macadam, with an addition of 20 per cent. Bitumen in the mixture. Experience has proved that this furnishes a very much better surface coating than Macadam mixed with Tar according to the Road Board Specification.

In seasonal surface spraying no refined tar by itself was used last season.

On those roads, other than main roads, a mixture of re-

fined Tar and Bitumen was used as the medium for spraying, but as even these mixtures had proved quite unsuitable to withstand the heavy traffic on the main road, the whole area of the Classified Roads had a Bitumen dressing applied to them in form of Spramex. This coating proved quite satisfactory, and furnished a sealing coat to the road surface right through the winter.

In the early part of the season a new service roadway leading to the Veterans' Cottages was formed, and later the last section of Kirkroads was widened, hedge removed, new footway formed, the contour of the road altered, and a footway defined by kerb laid the whole distance, and connected up to that near the Burgh Boundary.

During last year also all the roads and footpaths in connection with the Government Housing Scheme were completed at a total cost of £1967.

The road roller underwent a thorough overhaul during the spring, the amount expended in this connection being £104.

LIGHTING.

The area of lighting is extending every year. There are now 206 public lamps of different classes according to the varying needs of particular districts.

In congested areas with heavy motor omnibus traffic there are 6 high candle power lamps. At street corners and at other points where their existence is justified 44 treble or double burner lamps are fitted in position. Generally throughout the Burgh the lamps are of single inverted burners, but all of the super-heated pattern.

The number of all-night lamps remain as formerly at 14.

The lighting of the Public Clock is also charged against this particular Department, and the actual quantity of gas used for illuminating the dials in a season averages over one hundred thousand cubic feet, with a money value, at current rates, of just over £20.

The total cost of lighting for last financial year was £561 13s 8½d. Of that sum, £328 7s 1d was absorbed in the payment of gas, and £135 15s paid in wages. It may be noted

that the cost of lighting last year was £211 9s 6d less than the immediately preceding year, and this is due mainly to gas being considerably reduced in price, and to a smaller wage bill.

DEAN OF GUILD COURT.

A large increase in the volume of work passed through the Dean of Guild Court has to be recorded.

After a period of inactivity, apart from subsidised Housing Schemes, extending over a number of years, it is pleasant to observe not only a larger number of Petitions being presented, but also a decided increase in the volume of business represented by these Petitions.

A total number of 12 warrants were granted, and these embraced 6 dwelling-houses, 5 shops, an extension to dye-works, a brass foundry, etc.

Under Section 40 of the Burgh Police Act, 1903, the Burgh Surveyor granted 11 Minor Warrants to applicants, being precisely the same number as in the previous year.

GENERAL.

A considerable amount of time was involved preparing Schemes for the consideration of the Unemployment Committee, but only work of a minor nature was undertaken.

In the month of June much damage resulted from rather an alarming subsidence in the Hopetoun Street area. Evidences of underground movement were observed for several days, and were being carefully watched prior to collapse, but one experiences a peculiar helplessness in dealing with such a situation, for suitable preventatives against such an occurrence cannot be adopted with any degree of precision. The owners of property suffered the greatest loss from damage to their structures, but the granolithic pavements and water channels for long stretches were wrecked, although the water main was only slightly injured. It fared worse with the gas mains, however, for these being of rather small dimensions, were more easily fractured, and new mains had to be laid.

A permanent landmark in the old town disappeared with the demolition of the Old Jail. Built in a most substantial manner, the stones wherewith it was constructed were mainly

utilised for bottoming the widened portion of Edinburgh Road.

As in former years, work incidental to Kirkton, White-law, and Craigs Estate demanded attention, and quite a number of new fences were erected. A long line of boundary wall was also repaired.

The practice of carrying through all work by direct labour in preference to contracting has been continued, and is increasing largely in volume.

Last year, in addition to finishing the new roads at the Housing Site, the work connected with the levelling in the vicinity of three areas at the Building Site was undertaken and completed at the request of the Board of Health.

BURGH OF BATHGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1923.

- (a) The situation of the Burgh on the slope of Bathgate hills is most satisfactory from a sanitary point of view. The drainage—natural and artificial—and the water supply are satisfactory in every respect.

All the new houses, erected under the Burgh Housing Scheme, were in occupation as from the 15th May, 1923, but nevertheless overcrowding is still present. There is a constant demand for houses.

- (b) During the year general enquiries were made in regard to 61 Notifications of Infectious Disease. This shows a diminution from the previous year when there were 74 Notifications. Of the 61, 38 were of Scarlet Fever, all of a mild type; 9 of Pneumonia, a decrease of 10; 2 of Diphtheria; 8 of Erysipelas and 3 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was satisfactorily carried out by the Child Welfare Nurse and all were completely cured.
- (c) No offensive trades are established within the Burgh.
- (d) Visits were made from time to time to various workshops and factories.
- (e) Not applicable to Medical Officer of Health.
- (f) No conditions have arisen during the year or are expected to arise in the near future, pointing to the expediency of adopting a Town Planning Scheme for the proper control of further development. There is only one feuing superior in the Burgh and feuing is carried out on specified lines.
- (g) No pollution, strictly attributable to sources arising within the Burgh, was observed during the year, and no complaints were received.

- (h) The Slaughter house was inspected according to custom at regular intervals, and was found to be kept in as satisfactory a condition as is possible under the circumstances.
- (i) Tippethill Hospital continues to be the receiving hospital for cases of infectious disease in the Burgh. The iron pavilion erected for the purpose of receiving cases of Smallpox continued to be used temporarily as a Sanatorium for cases of Tuberculosis.
- (j) There is no disinfecting station within the Burgh.
- (k) All cases of infectious disease notified are at once investigated by the Sanitary Inspector. Where hospital treatment is considered necessary, it is adopted. In addition, all infectious diseases, notifiable and non-notifiable, occurring in schools in the Burgh, are regularly notified to the Medical Officer of Health as Medical Officer to the Education Authority.
- (l) No action, beyond notification, for the control of Pneumonia, Dysentery and Trench Fever has been adopted. There are no known "carriers" in the Burgh, and, therefore, no action has been necessary.
- (m) The arrangements with reference to the treatment of Venereal Disease continue in operation.
- (n) During the year there were no deaths from Influenza, but 9 cases of Pneumonia ended fatally. The 11 deaths from Tuberculosis are referred to in the next paragraph.
- (o) Tuberculosis. The scheme outlined in last year's report continued in operation during 1923. In this period 22 cases were notified, 8 of which were Pulmonary, and 14 were Non-Pulmonary. There were 11 deaths from Tuberculosis, 7 of which were due to the respiratory form of the disease.
- (p) The Maternity and Child Welfare Service continues usefully on lines laid down in previous years. A separate report of its working has already been submitted. It is to be noted that the Infantile Mortality rate is 78 deaths per 1000 births.

- (q) Not applicable.
- (r) The milk supply is satisfactory.
- (s) Procedure remains as in previous years.
- (t) No action.
- (u) No action.
- (v) No action.
- (w) Extracts (see below).

EXTRACTS FROM MEDICAL OFFICER'S TABLES FOR 1923.

Registered Births	206
Birth Rate, per 1000 of estimated population	24.5
Registered Deaths	90
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population	12.5
Deaths under 1 year of age per 1000 births (infantile mortality rate)	78

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Whooping Cough	1
Measles	0
Diphtheria	0
Scarlet Fever... ..	0
Influenza	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1
Other Epidemic Diseases	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7
Other Tuberculous Disease	4
Malignant Tumours	2
Meningitis (not Cer-Spin. or Tuberculous)	0
Apoplexy	11
Heart Disease	7
Diseases of Arteries	0
Bronchitis	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	9

Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	4
Appendicitis	0
Nephritis	3
Peurperal Sepsis	1
Diseases of Early Infancy, and Malformations	10
Violent Deaths	4
Other Defined Diseases	19
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	2
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Total Number of Deaths	90
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John Hunter.

Medical Officer of Health.

Bathgate, 30th April, 1924.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

NUISANCES.

In the routine work of a Sanitary Inspector, particularly that branch which deals with the ordinary and systematic visitation of a district for the detection and removal of nuisances, there is little of the spectacular and much that does not merit recording, yet, in the course of a year, a very fair amount of plodding and persevering effort is expended.

* The commonest form of recurring nuisance is that of the choked disconnecting trap on drains, but the practice, which has been in vogue for many years, whereby men in the employment of the Town Council clear these whenever observed at the expense of the proprietors, affords a quick method of abatement.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.

The nature and type of structure has been frequently referred to. It would be futile to expect that a building erected 56 years ago for the specific purpose for which it is used to-day should conform to present-day standards. The Town Council are quite agreed as to the advisability of possessing a new slaughter-house, but, having regard to current building costs, and to the fact that their energies and resources are being mainly directed to the more urgent need of providing dwelling-houses, the erection of a modern abbatoir is not likely to be attained in the immediate future.

For the year 1923 the total number of animals slaughtered was 2940, as against 3157 in 1922. While there was a decrease of 217 in the number of carcasses which left the slaughter-house, there was very little difference in weight, because 47 more cattle were slaughtered than in the previous year.

The classification of animals was as undernoted:—

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
737	309	985	909	2940

Butchers continue to purchase the high class of animal which has long been a feature in the local trade.

During the course of the year, however, it was observed that dealers who purchased as a rule old cows at the weekly auction mart began to send them to the Slaughter-House. If, after the usual examination, the carcasses were passed, they were immediately despatched by the owners to purchasers elsewhere.

When, however, a few carcasses, badly affected with tuberculosis were condemned, it became apparent that the Slaughter-House was being used by these dealers as a convenient clearing house for their own ends, and when enquiries revealed the fact that two cows, condemned after slaughter; cost little more than the value of their hides, steps were at once adopted which had the effect of terminating, rather abruptly, this nefarious trading in "piners" within our area.

UN SOUND FOOD.

A total weight of 2007 lbs., or practically 18 cwts. of meat was taken possession of and condemned in the course of a year. Three whole carcasses of cows and one each of a pig and a sheep were included in the above weights, as also portions of the carcasses of six oxen and two cows.

SCHOOLS.

Since the Academy playground was surfaced with tar macadam, and the open area fronting Torphichen Street Public School treated in a similar manner, the improvement in the condition of the floors during wet weather is very marked indeed. As a consequence of the frequent sloppy condition of these playgrounds, prior to resurfacing, and particularly after frost, much surplus mud was carried within the buildings, which afterwards became objectionable when being removed in the form of dust.

Improvements of a similar character can be effected at St. Mary's School, and also at Mid Street Infant School.

Before the work of resurfacing was commenced at the Academy, an examination of the drains which traversed the playground was undertaken.

This inspection at once suggested the desirability of having an entirely new set of drains laid, and the Works Committee of the Education Authority readily consented to the proposal.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

In the course of forty-eight visits to factories and workshops, it was only necessary to serve two notices under Section 2 (3) of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901. All other irregularities observed at the time of visit were promptly remedied on a verbal request being made to the persons responsible.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

The house in Chapel Lane, formerly recognised as a Common Lodging-House, was, owing to the charges now made, placed on the register of Houses Let in Lodgings.

Frequent visits have been made, and the place is kept in a clean and wholesome condition. The whole structure is maintained in good repair, and an alteration in the heating system added much to the comfort of the inmates during cold weather.

DAIRIES.

There are only two premises within the Burgh where cows are stalled and milk produced. Situated in close proximity to a milk producing area, the supply is always equal to the demand. The bulk is collected and distributed through the agency of the Co-operative Society, whose premises are now too small for the volume of trade, as the number of gallons handled averages over 2250 per week.

No contravention of the Dairy Regulations had to be dealt with.

BURIAL GROUNDS.

Under the control of the Parish Council the only place of interment within the Burgh is most efficiently maintained.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE BURGH POLICE ACT.

COMMON PASSAGES AND STAIRS.

A systematic visitation is made to all common passages

and stairs in order to ascertain whether the requirements of Section 117 of the Burgh Police Act, 1892 are being complied with, and following these visits the necessary notices are served. Generally there is little difficulty in having the lime-washing or painting completed, but there are always a few who will only respond when pressure is applied.

BACK COURTS AND AREAS.

In some districts repeated visits have to be paid to ensure of back courts and areas being maintained in a reasonable state of cleanliness. Not a few of the householders in these areas evidently do not have either the desire or inclination to keep their surroundings clean and wholesome, and not infrequently resent being reminded of their obligations.

CLEANSING OF DWELLING HOUSES.

Since the appointment of the Child Welfare and Maternity Nurse, there has been a very decided improvement in the general standard of cleanliness of dwelling-houses in several districts within the Burgh. Few indeed now fall to be dealt with in a summary manner.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidental to the notification of cases of infectious disease, 217 visits of enquiry were made, and 75 houses or premises were disinfected.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

A total of 29 samples were obtained for analysis. Of that number 10 were formal samples, 9 of which were certified to be genuine, and one which referred to a sample of milk, was declared to be adulterated. According to the Analyst's certificate, the milk was deficient in fat to the extent of at least 8 per cent., and contained also at least 12 per cent. of added water.

A prosecution was instituted in the Sheriff Court, when the milk vendor pled guilty and was fined £2.

Apart from the adulterated sample, the other milk samples furnished an average of 3.51 per cent. of fat, and 8.80 per cent. of non-fatty solids, being .51 and .30 per cent.

higher respectively than the presumptive standards. All the informal or scouting samples were genuine.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

For the first time samples of milk were procured for bacteriological examination, and while it may be regarded as satisfactory that the *Bacillus Tuberculosis* was not found present in any of the six samples examined, it would be most unwise to assume that our milk supply was tubercle free merely because of the fact that negative results had been obtained in six cases.

HOUSING.

All the 136 houses built under the Housing Act of 1919 were completed and occupied at Whitsunday last.

Notwithstanding that fact, there is little, if indeed, any evidence that the demand for houses has been met. On the contrary, from the applications still being received, the need may still be rightly regarded as of an urgent nature.

Moreover, sub-letting and overcrowding is not unknown within the Burgh. Lack of housing likewise deters the Officials from dealing with not a few dwellings according to their merits. Houses which have ceased to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation are still being occupied mainly because those living in them cannot get houses elsewhere.

These facts have, during the year, been a source of much anxiety to the Local Authority, who were ultimately constrained, not without serious consideration and some hesitation, to embark on a building scheme under the Housing Act of 1923. All preliminaries were carried through without undue delay, and now 32 houses of three apartments and 20 of two apartments are being constructed.

Each house is to be self-contained, and both types are to have a bath-room, scullery, larder, coal-house, and supplied throughout with hot water systems.

It is significant to note that while a subsidy of £6 per annum for a period of twenty years will be received for each house, a careful scrutiny of the estimates reveals the fact that the prospective loss to the Local Authority will be equivalent

to £7 per house per annum. Does this not suggest that a subsidy of £12 per house originally asked for was, after all, not an extravagant figure?

Stated in another way, the loss will be equal to the product of one penny per £ alike on owner and occupier.

Nor does this cover the obligations of the Local Authority for all the expense involved in laying sewers and water mains for the development of an extensive feuing area has been cheerfully accepted as a natural sequence.

Bearing these facts in mind, one is induced to state that the Local Authority, with somewhat limited means, have adopted a courageous policy, while not a few other Authorities, with much more ample resources, have thus far remained inactive.

A Scheme for assisting the provision of houses by private enterprise was framed, and received the consent of the Board of Health, and so far eight dwelling-houses are to be erected through its agency.

In the course of three years the activities of the Town Council, as exhibited in their housing programme, have, towards the eastern boundary of the Burgh, changed the fair face of nature, and when the present scheme is completed, practically twenty acres of land will have become occupied with dwelling-houses with roads and accesses thereto.

To enhance the appearance of the general lay-out, the Council resolved to spend a sum of over £80, being profit derived from sale of War Loan Stock, in planting trees and shrubs on the sides of roads and throughout the area. This has now been accomplished.

BURGH OF BATHGATE.

Statement by Sanitary Inspector of Proceedings under the Public Health and other Acts during 1923.

I.—NUISANCES.

Complaints Received	21
Intimations served under Section 19	53
Notices served under Section 20	0

II.—WORKSHOPS.

Inspections	48
Notices served under Section 2 (3) of Factory and Workshops Act, 1901	2

III.—TENTS AND VANS.

Inspections	43
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IV.—HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

Inspections	26
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V.—INSECTIOUS DISEASES.

Visits of Inquiry, etc.	217
Patients removed to Hospital	6
Notices served under Section 53 (2)	64
Notices served under Section 50 (2)	32
Intimations to School Boards, Teachers, etc.	75
Houses or Premises Disinfected... ..	109
Sets of Clothing, Bedding, etc., Disinfected or Destroyed	

VI.—BURIALS.

Burials undertaken under Section 69	2
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VII.—DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

On Register at 1st January, 1923...	4
Registered during year...	4
Removed from Register...	0
On Register at 31st December, 1923 ...	4
Inspections ...	22

VIII.—SLAUGHTER-HOUSE AND OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of Slaughter-houses belonging to Local Authority ...	1
Inspections of Slaughter-house ...	Daily

IX.—UN SOUND FOOD.

Inspections under Section 43 ...	50
Animals or carcasses or articles of food destroyed with owners' consent by or at the instance of the Sanitary Inspector ...	2

X.—SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Samples procured for analysis ...	10
Certified to be genuine ...	9
Certified to be adulterated ...	1
Test Samples ...	19
Certified to be genuine ...	19
Certified to be adulterated ...	0

